Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

February 23, 2021

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates
- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_02.23.2021.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** NC COVID Report Guidance_02182021.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** Reporting COVID-19 cases no followup to State_2-2021_short.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** NC COVID Standard Archiving Dataset_02252021.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** StrongSchools Toolkit
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ - 2.19.21.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

State Lab of Public Health Update

NC DHHS has an inventory of 125 BD Veritor Plus instruments that we would like to distribute to local health departments to support COVID-19 testing at your facilities or within the community. These instruments take 15 minutes to produce a result for one test, similar to the BinaxNOW test kits many have received to date and can run a maximum of 3,000 tests before they need to be replaced. They can also be used to run other BD Veritor tests including Group A Strep, Flu A+B, and RSV.

If you are interested in receiving these instruments, please fill out the following **survey linked here** by Friday, **February 26th**. NC DHHS will cover the cost of the BD Veritor instruments as well as **COVID-19 test kit supplies until the end of the 2021 calendar year**. Please note that we will be using responses to this survey to procure the necessary test kits, so aim to provide an accurate estimate. If you have any questions, please contact the NC DHHS Antigen Team at NCDHHS_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov.

NC COVID Archiving

NC COVID will start archiving negative COVID-19 events beginning the weekend of February 27. Archiving negative events will help to address several performance and processing issues within the NC COVID platform. Please see the attached document titled *NC COVID Report Guiance_02182021.pdf* for further instructions.

Additionally, a list of variables the Epi Data Team plans to include in a standard dataset available to LHDs to help prepare for archiving will be attached in the accompanying documents to the weekly key points titled: *NC COVID Standard Archiving Dataset_02252021.pdf*

Contact Tracing: Softphone and CCTO Update

- We have been moving forward to provide the best and most efficient system we can for contact tracing, and we are currently implementing a new softphone that will be embedded in CCTO.
    - When it is fully implemented, the softphone will appear within CCTO and will offer auto routing of inbound calls to the record owner and back and forth texting as well as a single state-wide phone number for anyone using the system.
    - What this means for you right now is that there will be a CCTO upgrade March 6/7 or the following weekend. In preparation for that, there has been some work with user views (your CCTO admin will have received several messages about this) and eventually it will mean a new URL. Look for communication from us on these topics in coming weeks.

- As schools open, contact tracing is a key function for any school clusters that arise.
- If you would like to work with school staff in CCTO, that's a possibility.
    - For LHDs where school nurses are LHD staff – just go ahead and set them up in CCTO as you have your other users
    - For LHDs where school nurses are school staff - please let us know and we will work with you to set that up. Contacts: Deborah.Porterfield@dhhs.nc.gov, karen.malloy@dhhs.nc.gov

Updated contact tracing guidance is available in the StrongSchools toolkit.

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov